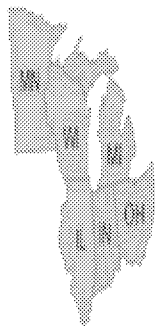


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Great Lakes

Region 5 Intelligence Briefing



November 10, 2021

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. federal Veterans Day holiday, we will not publish on Thursday, November 11, 2021. Service will resume on Friday, November 12, 2021. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

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Great Lakes

EPA's Korleski Interviewed On New Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Funding.

Spectrum News Columbus (USA)  (11/9) interviews EPA Great Lakes National Program Director Chris Korleski, who said that the roughly \$1 billion that will go to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative over five years will go to clean up contamination "sitting on the bottom of the lakes can contain metals and organic chemicals, none of which are good for fish or the organisms that live in the lake environment."

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Michigan

MI Lawmakers Write Regan About Benton Harbor.

Moody On The Market (MI) (11/9) reports Reps. Fred Upton (R-MI) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) have sent a letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan "seeking urgent answers, increased water testing, and further assistance on the ongoing lead contamination crisis in Benton Harbor." The lawmakers "requested a summary of the EPA's work with Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and a clear record of resources that the EPA has provided to the city and state for bottled water, water filters, and lead line replacement."

Gov. Whitmer Visits Benton Harbor As Pipe Replacement Begins.

The Detroit News (11/9, Fleming) reports Gov. Gretchen Whitmer (D-MI) visited Benton Harbor on Tuesday and "joined with Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad to watch the first lead pipe excavations since Whitmer pledged millions to replace them in 18 months." She also "attended a weekly local community meeting and listened to local leaders and residents about the crisis." Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) "joined Muhammad on Monday to watch the initial excavation."

WOOD-TV Grand Rapids, MI (11/9) reports Gov. Whitmer “is encouraging residents to do their part in signing off on pipe replacement work taking place on private property amid Benton Harbor’s water crisis.” The EPA “is looking for homeowners to take part in a series of water studies, one of which will examine whether water filters are effective in reducing lead levels.” So far, “25 residents have signed up, but hundreds more are needed.”

WWJ-TV Detroit (11/9) reports, “The estimated cost to replace 100% of the lead service lines in the city is \$30 million, with \$18.6 so far delivered by the state of Michigan.” Of the money delivered, \$10 million came from the state FY 2022 budget, \$3 million came from the MI Clean Water plan, and \$5.6 million came from a Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act grant from the EPA.

Michigan Advance (11/9, Gustafson) reports in a 2,200-word article on the local activists in Benton Harbor fighting for clean drinking water.

WBND-TV South Bend, IN (11/9, Elliott), **WXMI-TV** Grand Rapids, MI (11/9), **WKZO-AM** Kalamazoo, MI (11/9, Kriss), **WDIV-TV** (11/9), **WNEM-TV** (11/9), **WXMI-TV** (11/9), and **WSMH-TV** (11/9) also report.

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Minnesota

EPA Transmits 32 MN Impaired Waters.

The **Red Lake Nation News (MN)** (11/10) reports the EPA “has transmitted its addition of 32 waters to Minnesota’s 2020 Impaired Waters List under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.” The list was open to two comment period in the course of the year, during which one of the waters was removed from the list.

MN Pollution Agency Has List of 2,904 Impaired Waters.

The **Land Online (MN)** (11/8, Arola) reports the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency “released its draft list of impaired waters Monday. The MPCA included 305 new water bodies and 417 new impairments statewide – bringing the total number of impaired water bodies to 2,904 and impairments to 6,168.”

There are eight “newly listed water quality issues in Blue Earth County, which raised the total number to 140, included mercury found in fish tissue on portions of the Le Sueur River and worsened habitats for fish on Madison and Lura lakes.”

The **Rochester (MN) Post-Bulletin** (11/9, Todd) also reports.

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